

Dear Council Members:

I urge you to fully fund both the Haleiwa Business Improvement District planning, and the City share of the Kaiaka Bay dredging and watershed improvements.

I have been a volunteer for many Haleiwa efforts: Weed Circle, the community association grounds, a trolley tour docent, and a history presenter at the North Shore Chamber of Commerce' recent business exposition. I've participated in community planning as far back as the 1980's when the 'Made in Haleiwa' report revealed the quiet dynamism of Haleiwa's economy.

We do a lot on our own out in 'the Country.' But some things require the entire County's efforts to carry through. The watershed improvements are one of these. There are seven streams running toward Haleiwa from a vast upland watershed, and an eighth 'river of grass' from the Uko'a wetlands. This Waialua district was called the 'fattened land,' in the old days, because our freshwater streams wetlands, fishponds, and coastal fisheries were so productive for the ancient subsistence lifestyle.

The modern world drives right over and right by these wetlands and streams with scarcely a thought. Most don't even know the number or names of these life giving streams. Even the engineers, building the Joe Leong bypass, ignored the Uko'a wetlands in their planning, resulting in a very long delay in completing the project as it had to be redesigned to bridge them. If even engineers don't know their topography, it's not surprising others don't.

The recent scientific and planning effort to improve the Kaiaka Bay watershed has been exemplary, and community based. We recall another flood, not long ago, when there were drownings due to the sudden waters' rise. At the recent flood many were taken by surprise. I urge you to find a way to do our County government's duty for its part in assisting the Corps of Engineers to improve the Kaiaka drainage, and so avoid another loss of life and sudden property-damage event.

As for the business district improvements, earnest citizens have been trying for 16 years to improve Haleiwa town's pedestrian walks. The County has built, and maintains, sidewalks all over the City, many of which are seldom used, yet are maintained at great expense (tree roots lifting are repaired all over the city), yet in Haleiwa, where thousands of visitors, and thousands of City residents, go to enjoy the historic town and generate revenues and increase property values, there are no walksways. Please do the City's part to make sure that Haleiwa's businesses and citizens can effectively do for ourselves what no one apparently will ever come in and do for us.

Respectfully,

Boyd Ready
59-661 Alapio Road
Haleiwa HI 94712

808-306-9307

boydready@hawaii.rr.com

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